



Testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Jason Ayala, and I'm from Bridgeport, CT. I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

During my educational journey in Bridgeport, I went to a total of 7 different schools in hopes of receiving a better education. Unfortunately, the quality of education I received varied due to the lack of resources allocated for these schools. This year marks 10 years since I graduated from high school and now my nieces and nephews face the same struggles. My siblings have had to switch them from school to school in hopes of getting them the quality education that they deserve, especially as English Language Learners.

Throughout the 6 years that I have been a Leader with FaithActs for Education, I have seen countless families face the same struggles as mine. These are hard-working families, many times single parent homes, and they strive to provide everything they can to get their children what they deserve. I am imploring you to do the same! We cannot expect our children to have any chance of succeeding if we do not change Connecticut's current education funding system.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

Jason Ayala
52 Platt Street



Bridgeport, CT 06606